

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A method of forming a plastics material product, ~~said method~~ including providing a plastics material member being a film, fibre or filament and stretching said member beyond its yield point to decrease its thickness and increase its length, at least partially relaxing said stretched plastics material member whereby the plastics material member achieves either or both
- (i) an improved resistance to degradation from UV light radiation, and
 - (ii) an improved resistance to oxygen or other gas transmissivity,
- and forming said plastics material member into said product.
2. A method of forming a plastics material product ~~including providing a~~ plastics material member being a film, fibre or filament and stretching said member beyond its yield point to decrease its thickness and increase its length, and at least partially relaxing said stretched plastics material member to form said product whereby the plastics material member achieves either or both
- (i) an improved resistance to degradation from UV light radiation, and
 - (ii) an improved resistance to oxygen or other gas transmissivity.
3. A method according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, ~~wherein the plastics material~~ member is substantially uniformly relaxed across its cross-section transverse to the stretching direction.
4. A method according to anyone of Claims 1 to 3, wherein said stretched plastics material member is relaxed by at least 5% of its total stretched length.
5. A method according to anyone of Claims 1 to 3, ~~wherein said stretched~~ plastics material member is relaxed by at least 10% of its total stretched length.
6. A method according to anyone of Claims 1 to 5, wherein after said at least partial relaxation, said plastics material member is fixed at said length whereby further relaxation is prevented.

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Sub A2

7. A method according to Claim 6, wherein said fixing of the length of said plastics material member is by removal of means through a process such as an annealing process.

8. A method according to anyone of Claims 1 to 7, wherein said plastics material member is a film and said film is laminated with at least one other film of plastics or other material.

9. A plastics material member having a decreased oxygen permeability and increased resistance to UV degradation, said plastics material member being a film, fibre or filament, stretched beyond its yield point to decrease its thickness and increase its length, said plastics material member being at least partially relaxed.

10. A plastics material member having a decreased oxygen permeability, said plastics material member being a film, fibre or filament, stretched beyond its yield point to decrease its thickness and increase its length, said plastics material member being at least partially relaxed.

11. A plastics material member having an increased resistance to UV degradation, said plastics material member being a film, fibre or filament, stretched beyond its yield point to decrease its thickness and increase its length, said plastics material member being at least partially relaxed.

12. A plastics material member according to anyone of Claims 9 to 11, wherein the stretched plastics material member is relaxed by at least 5%, preferably 10%, of its total stretched length.

13. A plastics material product formed from a plastics material member according to anyone of Claims 9 to 12.

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14. A method of wrapping a material, object or objects to create an anaerobic atmosphere within a wrapping envelope, said method including providing a plastics material film and stretching said film beyond its yield point to decrease the thickness and increase the length of the film, at least partially relaxing said stretched plastics material film, applying said relaxed stretched plastics material film to be wrapped in at least one overlapping layer with at least sufficient applied further tension to form said wrapping envelope with an anaerobic atmosphere therewithin.

15. A method of wrapping a material, object or objects, to create an anaerobic atmosphere within a wrapping envelope, said method including providing an at least partially relaxed plastics material film pre-stretched beyond its yield point to increase its length and decrease its thickness, applying said pre-stretched plastics material film to be wrapped in at least one layer with at least sufficient applied further tension to form said wrapping envelope with an anaerobic atmosphere therewithin.

16. A method according to Claims 14 or Claim 15, wherein the object is a bale of silage making material.

17. A method according to anyone of Claims 14 to 16, wherein the at least partially relaxed plastics material film is relaxed uniformly across the width of the film.

18. A method of making silage, including providing a bale of silage making material, forming a wrapping envelope about said bale utilising an at least partially relaxed plastics material film pre-stretched before relaxation beyond its yield point to increase its length and decrease its thickness, applying said pre-stretched plastics material film to be wrapped in at least one overlapping layer to form said wrapping envelope with an anaerobic atmosphere therewithin.

19. A method of making silage including providing a bale of silage making material, and forming a wrapping envelope about said bale having at least one layer of a pre-stretched plastics material film that has been stretched beyond its yield point to form a film with reduced thickness and increased length, at least partially relaxing said film, and applying said pre-stretched plastics material film to said bale with at least sufficient tension to form said wrapping envelope with an anaerobic atmosphere therewithin.

20. A method of making silage including providing a bale of silage making material, forming a wrapping envelope about said bale utilising a plastics material film that has been first stretched beyond its yield point to increase its length and decrease its thickness and thereafter at least partially relaxed, said plastics material film undergoing a secondary stretch after being at least partially relaxed, applying said plastics material film to be wrapped in at least one layer about said bale to form said wrapping envelope with an anaerobic atmosphere therewithin.

21. A method according to Claim 20, wherein said secondary stretch occurs prior to the film being applied to said bale.

22. A method according to Claim 20, wherein said secondary stretch occurs as the film is applied to said bale.

23. A method according to any one of Claims 20 to 22, wherein the secondary stretch is beyond the level of said first stretch.

24. A method according to any one of Claims 20 to 22, wherein the secondary stretch is less than the level of said first stretch.

25. A plastics material film used in any one of the methods according to Claims 14 to 24.

